

HOW TO...

Secure your flash memory drives

Karl Wright explains how to destroy old and hidden data on your USB thumb drives

SAFETI DIGITAL MEDIA SHREDDER 1.0



Flash memory drives are small and easily lost. They don't just contain the files you can see; they may also hold copies of deleted files that even an inexperienced snoop will be able to recover. Safeti Digital Media Shredder helps you keep the data on your drives safe. It allows you to erase everything on a thumb drive, making it impossible for an identity thief to recover any of your deleted information.

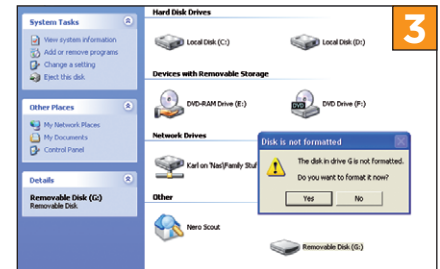
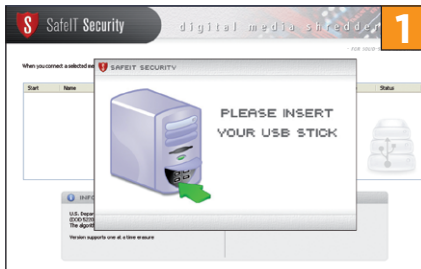
The software has been specially designed for use with solid state memory. As well as USB flash drives, it supports most types of memory cards and many flash-based MP3 players. A free six-month licence for Digital Media Shredder is included on this month's cover disc.

1 Launch the install routine by double-clicking on the Digital Media Shredder entry in the Full Products tab of the disc browser. Digital Media Shredder can be installed on any version of Windows from 2000 on, including Vista. When the program opens, it asks you to plug in a USB drive. First, click on Settings in the bottom left-hand corner and tell the software how often it should overwrite data. The more passes it makes, the harder it is to recover. Media Shredder supports up to four-pass overwriting.

2 Next, plug the USB drive you wish to erase into one of your PC's USB ports. The software will ask if you wish to start the erasing

process. Erasing a drive typically takes only a few minutes, depending on its size, and the program will inform you when the process is finished. If you change your mind about wanting to wipe the drive, press Abort quickly.

3 Once the erasing process is over, your media will be completely erased to the point of no longer being formatted to receive data. Before you reuse the drive, you'll have to reformat it. To do this, plug the drive in, open My Computer, right-click the drive and choose Format. From the list of options in the window that pops up, choose Quick Format. The process takes only a few minutes.



HOW TO...

Safeguard your files

Protect your files against deletion and corruption, with Karl Wright's help

VERSOMATIC 1.0



One of the most useful new features of Windows Vista is Volume Shadow Copy, a backup utility that allows you to recover previous versions of files that have been deleted or altered in some way. However, if you have Windows XP, you don't need to wait to upgrade to experience this protection. You can have it now using Versomatic, a backup and recovery program that in many ways works like Vista's Volume Shadow Copy. The full version of this program is on this month's cover disc.

1 To install Versomatic, go to the Full Products tab of the cover disc browser and click the Versomatic entry. Once the installation is complete, you must restart your PC. Files on

your desktop and in My Documents are now protected. To protect files in other directories, open Versomatic preferences from the Start menu and add the directory you want to protect to the list of Directory Locations to Track. On the Archive tab, you can specify the maximum number of versions of a file the software should save, the location in which old versions should be stored and the maximum disk space that should be given to storing previous versions of files.

2 Select a document, right-click it and, in the Context menu, select Versomatic. If you have changed the document since installing Versomatic, the date on which you changed it will be listed here. To go back to an older version

of the file, open it and save it as a copy to the location of your choice. Alternatively, hold down the Shift key as you select the version you want to go back to and the software copies the version you selected to the location in which the original file is stored, adding today's date to the filename so the newest version of the file isn't overwritten.

3 To recover a file that has been deleted, open Versomatic Version Manager from the Start menu. Here you'll see the files currently protected by the software, and recently deleted files (marked with the abbreviation 'del' in red). To restore a deleted file, right-click it and choose Undelete file. To delete the file permanently, choose Purge from the Context menu. **CS**

